(Copy.)

Roxbury Aug. 31st, 1874.

121

Dear Mrs. Chapman,

I am doubly indebted to you, for your letter & for the precious note from dear Harriet Martineau, whose abiding friendship is thereby assured in terms unspeakably gratifying to me. In sending her my last photographic "Counterfeit Presentment," I certainly did not mean to tax her even to the briefest acknowledgement of its receipt, fully aware of her extreme bodily debility; & I am all the more impressed by the steadfastness of her regard, in having taken the trouble to write me such a note — a note which my children will be sure carefully to preserve. Her hand writing is as autonomous & legible as it was half a century ago notwithstanding her enfeebled condition

In intellectual force & comprehensive grasp of mind, she has long since shown herself entitled to stand among the most gifted of Mankind. & her moral courage & personal independence in the utterance of her conscientious convictions, no matter at what cost challenge the admiration of all noble souls. To what a fiery ordeal was she subjected when in this recreant, slaveholding land

nearly forty years ago, because of her sympathy for the oppressed, & her affiliation with the every where abhorred abolitionists! How Majestic is the figure She presents in our Anti-Slavery history, in connection with the Boston Pro-Slavery mob of 1835! My pulses still leap as I think of her brave testimony, her most serene aspect, her inflexible adherence to principle, her illustrious example, as witnessed at that convulsive period. How quickly She sacrificed her literary reputation and her high Social position! And as a stranger from a foreign land, or a transient visitor, how easily She might have excused herself from "intermeddling with our domestic concerns"! Let her be chronicled among those "of whom the world was not worthy." Yet was there ever a more modest nature in contrast with an aspiring ambition for conspicuity? To such a soul self-poised in its integrity, it matters little whether it is remembered or forgotten by this or the next generation: it is none the less an Elemental force to move the World and Shake human destiny.

I am glad to

learn that you hear from this good & grand Woman twice a month regularly "always self-possessed and wonderfully cheerful." In writing to her at any time, you may tell her that my esteem & veneration for her increase with years, & that I shall ever feel most deeply indebted to her for what she long ago said in My vindication."

+ + + + + +

(Signed)

William Lloyd Garrison

(Copy)
of ur copy.

Roxbury, Aug. 31, 1874.

Dear Mrs Chapman:

I am doubly indebted to you for your letter and for the precious note from dear Harriet Martineau, whose abiding friendship is thereby assured in terms unspeakably gratifying to me. In sending her my last photographic "counterfeit presentment," I certainly did not mean to tax her even to the briefest acknowledgment (dying?) of its receipt, fully aware of her extreme bodily debility; and I am all the more impressed by the steadfastness of her regard, in having taken the trouble to write me such a note — a note which my children will be sure carefully to preserve. Her hand writing is as untremulous and legible as it was half a century ago, notwithstanding her enfeebled condition.

In intellectual force and comprehensive grasp of mind, she has long since shown herself entitled to stand among the most gifted of mankind; and her moral courage and personal independence in the utterance of her conscientious convictions, no matter at what cost, challenge the admiration of all noble souls. To what a fiery ordeal was she subjected when in this recreant slaveholding land, nearly forty years ago, because of her sympathy for the oppressed, and her affiliation with the everywhere abhorred abolitionists! How majestic is the figure she presents in our Anti-Slavery history, in connection with the Boston pro-Slavery mob of 1835! My pulses still leap, as I think of her brave testimony, her most serene aspect, her inflexible adherence to principle, her illustrious example, as witnessed at that convulsive period. How quickly she sacrificed her literary reputation and her high social position! And as a stranger from a foreign land, or a transient visitor, how easily she might have excused herself from "intermeddling with our domestic concerns"! Let her be chronicled among

those "of whom the world was not worthy." Yet was there ever a more modest nature in contrast with an aspiring ambition for conspicuity? To such a soul, self-poised in its integrity, it matters little whether it is remembered or forgotten by this or the next generation: it is none the less an elemental force to move the world and shape human destiny.

I am glad to learn that you hear from this good and grand woman twice a month regularly, "always self-possessed and wonderfully cheerful." In writing to her at any time, you may tell her that my esteem and veneration for her increase with years, and that I shall ever feel most deeply indebted to her for what she long ago said in my vindication.

× × × × × × × × ×

(Signed) William Lloyd Garrison

Aug. 31. 1874